

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

-----125924 062107Z /46

R 061450Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6892

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1193

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SY, EG, IS, XF

SUBJ: SYRIAN CAMPAIGN TO CORRECT DISEQUILIBRIUM

1. WE HAVE READ WITH INTEREST AND PROFIT YOUR EXCELLENT 1228.
I DISCUSSED YOUR EVALUATIONS OF SYRIAN POLICY VIS-A-VIS LEBANON
WITH BOUTROS ON MARCH 3 AND HE SAID IT COINCIDED WITH HIS OWN
VIEWS COMPLETELY, WITH ONE EXCEPTION. HE THOUGHT THAT SYRIAN
PUBLIC OPINION WAS INDEED AN IMPORTANT RESTRAINING FACTOR FOR
ASSAD, WHO, AS AN ALAWITE, HAD TO BE CAREFUL TO FOLLOW A LINE
WHICH WOULD NOT ALIENATE THE SUNNIS TOO MUCH.

2. AFTER ALL, WHY ELSE WOULD HE BE SO INTERESTED IN FIG LEAVES?

3. BOUTROS SAID, INCIDENTALLY, THAT KHADDAM HAD TOLD HIM
SYRIANS HAD AN ACCOUNT OF MY FEBRUARY 18 CONVERSATION WITH
PIERRE GEMAYEL, DURING WHICH I HAD TOLD GEMAYEL CHRISTIANS
SHOULD COOPERATE WITH SYRIANS IN MAINTAINING PEACE HERE.
KHADDAM IMPLIED THAT THEY HAD A VERBATIM ACCOUNT AND NOTED THAT
OUR POSITION WAS CLEAR AND CORRECT. BOUTROS WAS INTRIGUED BY
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KHADDAM'S CLAIM TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I HAD SAID. WE HAVE NO
EXPLANATION.

PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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